

I claim:

1. A computer system comprising:
 - at least two CPUs;
 - 5 shared memory shared by said CPUs,
 - at least one shared system resource accessible to said CPUs; and
 - said shared memory having therein a resource locking table, comprising memory elements, each of said memory elements designated for being written to by only one of said at least two CPUs, and each CPU having a corresponding memory element for each shared system resource to which it has access,
 - 10 wherein each of said at least two CPUs is communicatively interconnected with said shared memory and said shared system resource, and said resource locking table is operative by each of said CPUs.
2. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein said communicative interconnection is across a communications bus wherein a single read operation is capable of atomically reading at least a collection of said memory elements, said collection comprising at least two memory elements.

3. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein said memory element is a bit.

- 5 4. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein said memory element is a byte.

5. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein any of said at least two CPUs can read a first collection of 10 memory elements in a single transaction, said first collection of memory elements corresponding to requests of said CPUs for one of said at least one shared system resources.

- 15 6. A computer system according to claim 5, wherein a CPU locks a shared system resource by executing control commands to accomplish the steps of:
 - a. checking the content of said first collection of memory elements of said shared memory and if all are not clear waiting for all of them to clear;
 - b. setting the memory element corresponding to said CPU;
 - c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements is set, and if true then reset said memory element corresponding to said 20 CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said

- first collection of memory units to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- d. access said shared system resource corresponding to said first collection of memory elements; and
- 5 e. reset said memory element, corresponding to said CPU, of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said at least one shared system resource.
7. A computer system according to claim 5, wherein a second 10 collection of memory elements corresponds to a group of CPUs.
8. A computer system according to claim 7, wherein a CPU locks a shared system resource by executing control 15 commands to accomplish the steps of:
- a. checking the content of said second collection of memory elements and, if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
- b. setting the memory element corresponding to a desired 20 CPU group;
- c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said second collection of memory elements is set, and if true then reset said memory element corresponding to said CPU group and waiting for all of said memory elements of said 25 second collection of memory elements to reset and repeat

- the sequence from step a.;
- d. checking the content of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource and said CPU group and if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
- 5 e. setting the memory element corresponding to a CPU within said CPU group;
- f. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements is set, and if true then reset said memory element corresponding to said CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- 10 g. accessing said shared system resource corresponding to said first collection of memory elements;
- 15 h. resetting said memory element corresponding to said CPU, of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource; and
- i. resetting said memory element, corresponding to said CPU group, of said second collection of memory elements
- 20 corresponding to said shared system resource.
9. A method for locking a shared system resource for use by a single CPU in a multiprocessor, shared memory system, comprising providing a resource locking table in said shared memory which is operative by any CPU in the system, and by

which any individual CPU can: a) update a memory element corresponding uniquely to the shared system resource and CPU; and b) read all memory elements corresponding to the shared system resources.

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10. A method for locking a shared system resource for use by a single CPU the method comprising:

a. checking the content of a collection of memory elements of a resource locking table implemented in shared memory and if not all are clear waiting for all of them to clear;

b. setting the memory element corresponding to the CPU;

c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said collection of memory elements is set, and if true then reset said memory element corresponding to the CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said collection of memory units to reset and repeat the sequence from a;

d. accessing the resource corresponding to said collection of memory elements; and

e. resetting the memory element, corresponding to the CPU, of said collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource.

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11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said shared memory is connected to a PCI bus.

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12. A method for locking a shared system resource for use by a single CPU having access to a first and second collection of memory elements of shared memory, the method comprising:
- 5 a. checking the content of said second collection of memory elements and if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
- b. setting the memory element corresponding to a desired CPU group;
- c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said second collection of memory elements is set, and if true, resetting said memory element corresponding to said CPU group and waiting for all of said memory elements of said second collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- 10 d. checking the content of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said resource and said CPU group and, if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
- e. setting said memory element corresponding to a CPU within said CPU group;
- 15 f. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements is set, and if true then resetting said memory element corresponding to said CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- 20 g. setting the memory element corresponding to a desired CPU group;
- 25 h. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements is set, and if true then resetting said memory element corresponding to said CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;

- g. accessing the shared system resource corresponding to said first collection of memory elements;
- h. Resetting said memory element, corresponding to said CPU, of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource; and
- 5 i. Resetting said memory element, corresponding to said CPU group, of said second collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource.

10 13. A method according to claim12, wherein said shared memory is connected to a PCI bus.

14. A computer program product for locking a shared system resource for use by a single CPU, the computer program product
15 comprising:

computer readable medium having thereon software instructions for enabling a system, containing at least two CPUs and at least one shared system resource, to perform predetermined operations comprising:

20 a. checking the content of a collection of memory elements of a resource locking table implemented in shared memory and if not all are clear waiting for all of them to clear;

b. setting the memory element corresponding to said CPU;

c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said
25 collection of memory elements is set, and if true then resetting said

- memory element corresponding to said CPU and waiting for all of
said memory elements of said collection of memory units to reset
and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- d. access said shared system resource corresponding to said
collection of memory elements; and
- e. resetting said memory element, corresponding to said CPU, of
said collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared
system resource.
- 10 15. A computer software program product according to claim 14,
wherein said CPUs and said shared memory are connected by a
PCI bus.
- 15 16. A computer program product for locking a shared system
resource for use by a single CPU having access to a first and
second collection of memory elements of at least one shared
memory, the computer program product comprising:
computer readable medium having thereon software instructions
for enabling a system, containing at least two CPUs and at least
20 one shared system resource, to perform predetermined
operations comprising:
a. checking the content of said second collection of memory
elements and if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
b. setting the memory element corresponding to a desired CPU
25 group;

- c. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said second collection of memory elements is set, and if true then resetting said memory element corresponding to said CPU group and waiting for all of said memory elements of said second collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- d. checking the content of said first collection of memory elements residing in a resource locking table implemented in said shared memory and further corresponding to said shared system resource and CPU group and, if not clear, waiting for them to all clear;
- e. setting said memory element corresponding to a CPU within said CPU group;
- f. checking if more than one of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements is set, and if true then reset said memory element corresponding to said CPU and waiting for all of said memory elements of said first collection of memory elements to reset and repeat the sequence from step a.;
- g. accessing the shared system resource corresponding to said first collection of memory elements;
- h. Resetting the memory element, corresponding to said CPU, of said first collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource; and
- i. resetting memory element, corresponding to said CPU group, of

said second collection of memory elements corresponding to said shared system resource.

- 5 17. A computer software program product according to claim 16,
wherein said CPUs and said shared memory are connected by a
PCI bus.